

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

Q2 1. (Currently Amended) ~~A printing system for performing printing by a plurality of printers~~ An information processing apparatus for instructing each of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to print requests from a the plurality of terminal devices connected via a network, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with print requests from said plurality of terminal devices; ~~and~~

first designating means for instructing a terminal device that has been specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer; and

management means for managing record information of the printing performed by each of the plurality of terminal devices according to the instruction.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~system apparatus~~ according to claim 1, ~~further comprising wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises~~ second designating means for designating a printer that is to print image information; and

~~wherein~~ said first designating means instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated by said second designating means and the terminal device storing the image information.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said first designating means instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon whether said terminal device and printer are connected locally or via a network.

Q2 4. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said specifying means includes a management database for managing image information as image file names[[:]], and
wherein said specifying means specifying a terminal device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in said management database.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising totalization means for totalizing statistical information based upon attribute information in said management database.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the attribute information includes information on identifiers, image file names, number of pages to be printed and printing date.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling ~~a printing system for performing printing by a plurality of printers~~ an information processing apparatus for instructing each of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to print requests from ~~a the~~ plurality of terminal devices ~~connected via a network~~, said method comprising:

Q2 a specifying step₁ of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with print requests from the plurality of terminal devices; ~~and~~

a first designating step₂ of instructing a terminal device that has been specified at said specifying step to transfer the image information to a printer; and

a management step₃ of managing record information of the printing performed by each of the plurality of terminal devices according to the instruction.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, ~~further comprising~~ wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises a second designating step₄ of designating a printer that is to print image information; and

~~wherein~~ said first designating step instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated at said second designating step and the terminal device storing the image information.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said first designating step instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon whether said terminal device and printer are connected locally or via a network.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein said specifying step specifies a terminal device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in a management database for managing image information as image file names.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising a totalization step of totalizing statistical information based upon attribute information in said management database.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the attribute information includes information on identifiers, image file names, number of pages to be printed and printing date.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing program code of a method of controlling ~~a printing system~~ an information processing apparatus, comprising:

code of a specifying step of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with print requests from a plurality of terminal devices; and

code of a designating step, of instructing a specified terminal device to transfer the image information to a printer; and

code of a management step, of managing record information of the printing performed by each of the plurality of terminal devices according to the instruction.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A printing system having a plurality of image storage devices connected via a network and a plurality of printers, said printing system~~ An information processing apparatus comprising:

Q2 specifying means for specifying an image storage device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with print requests from a plurality terminal devices connected via ~~the~~ a network; and

first designating means for instructing that the image information, which has been stored in an image storage device specified by said specifying means, is transferred to a printer; and

management means for record information of the printing performed by each of the plurality of terminal devices according to the instruction.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 16, ~~further comprising wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises~~ second designating means for designating a printer that is to print image information; and

wherein said first designating means instructs that the image information be transferred to the printer designated by said second designating means.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said first designating means designates mode of transfer of the image information in dependence upon whether said image storage device and said printer are connected locally or via a network.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said specifying means includes a management database for managing image information as image file names; and

wherein said specifying means specifying an image storage device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in said management database.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device.


21. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising totalization means for totalizing statistical information based upon attribute information in said management database.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the attribute information includes information on identifiers, image file names, number of pages to be printed and printing date.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling ~~a printing system~~ having ~~a plurality of image storage devices connected via a network and a plurality of printers~~ an information processing apparatus, said method comprising:

a specifying step₁ of specifying an image storage device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with print requests from a plurality terminal devices connected via ~~the~~ a network; and

a first designating step₁ of instructing that the image information, which has been stored in an image storage device specified at said specifying step, is transferred to a printer; and

 a management step, of managing record information of the printing performed by each of the plurality of terminal devices according to the instruction.


24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, ~~further comprising~~ wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises a second designating step of designating a printer that is to print image information; and

wherein said first designating step ~~instructs~~ includes instructing that the image information be transferred to the printer designated ~~at~~ in said second designating step.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein said first designating step ~~designates~~ includes designating a mode of transfer in dependence upon whether ~~said~~ the image storage device and printer are connected locally or via a network.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein said specifying step ~~specifies~~ includes specifying an image storage device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in a management database for managing image information as image file names.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device.

 28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 26, further comprising a totalization step₂ of totalizing statistical information based upon attribute information in ~~said~~ the management database.


29. (Original) The method according to claim 28, wherein the attribute information includes information on identifiers, image file names, number of pages to be printed and printing date.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing program code of a method of controlling ~~a printing system~~ an information processing apparatus, comprising:

code of a specifying step₁ of specifying an image storage device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from a terminal device; and

code of a designating step, of instructing that the image information, which has been stored in a specified image storage device, be transferred to a printer; and
code of a management step, of managing record information of the printing performed by each of the plurality of terminal devices according to the instruction.

31. (New) An information processing apparatus for instructing each of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to print requests from each of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

 specifying means for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with print requests from said plurality of terminal devices; and

first designating means for instructing a terminal devices that has been specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer,

wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises a display control unit for controlling a display device so as to display a list of print orders to which thumbnail images are added.

32. (New) The apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring image information stored in a terminal device in accordance with a display request of the list of print orders from the terminal device; and

transfer means for generating a thumbnail image bases on the image information and transferring the thumbnail image to the terminal device.

33. (New) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus for instructing each of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to print requests from each of the plurality of terminal devices, said method comprising:

a specifying step, of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with print requests from the plurality of terminal devices; and

a first designating step, of instructing a terminal device that has been specified by said specifying step to transfer the image information to a printer,

wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises a display control unit that controls a display device so as to display a list of print orders to which thumbnail images are added.

34. (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program code of a method of controlling an information processing apparatus comprising:

code of a specifying step, of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with print requests from a plurality of terminal devices; and

code of a first designating step, of instructing a terminal device that has been specified in said specifying step to transfer the image information to a printer,

wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises a display control unit that controls a display devices so as to display a list of print orders to which thumbnail images are added.